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18 November 1966

Talking Paper for "Operation ATTLEBORO--Its Significance"

This memo, describes the effectiveness of ATTLEBORO (still in progress) in War Zone "C" in South Vietnam and explains the importance to the Communists of War Zone "C." It posits the various tactical options the Viet Cong have in the face of a potent allied force. It then assesses the significance of the successful operation:

--in the short run, it has inflicted heavy casualties on the Viet Cong 9th Div., until now one of the most effective Communist units, and has captured large quantities of vital supplies.

--in the longer run, it threatens the major Communist political and military headquarters in the south; if the Communists cannot successfully defend this headquarters against ground attack, any doubts the Communist military leadership may have about allied strength and mobility would be removed. Thus it could force the Communists to alter their tactics.

This memo was prepared at the request of the DDCI. Recommend it be given wide internal and external dissemination.